

Claim Amendments

1-10 (canceled)

11 (currently amended): A method of monitoring the progression of HIV infection or AIDS in a patient, the method comprising:

(a) measuring the number of pDC2 cells in a lymphoid tissue or blood sample obtained from the patient, wherein the pDC2 cells are CD4⁺, CD3⁻ and CD11c⁻; and

(b) comparing the number of pDC2 cells in said sample with the number of pDC2 cells in an appropriate control sample, where the control sample is from a subject or subjects free of HIV infection or AIDS,

wherein a number of pDC2 cells in the patient sample below the number of pDC2 cells in the control sample indicates that HIV infection or AIDS ~~the disease or disorder is~~ may be progressing.

12-14 (canceled)

15 (currently amended): A method of assessing the effectiveness of a therapeutic or pharmaceutical composition in treating, inhibiting or ameliorating HIV infection or AIDS in a patient, the method comprising measuring and comparing the number of pDC2 cells in a lymphoid tissue or blood sample obtained from the subject before and after treatment with the therapeutic or pharmaceutical composition, wherein the pDC2 cells are CD4⁺, CD3⁻ and CD11c⁻, and wherein an increase in the number of pDC2 cells in the sample after treatment indicates that the composition ~~is~~ may be effective.

16-20 (canceled)

21 (previously presented): The method of claim 11, wherein the lymphoid tissue or blood sample is a peripheral blood sample.

22 (previously presented): The method of claim 11, wherein the pDC2 cell number is determined by counting CD4⁺ CD3⁻ CD11c⁻ cells.

23 (previously presented): The method of claim 22, wherein the pDC2 cells are isolated before counting.

24 (previously presented): The method of claim 23, wherein the pDC2 cells are isolated by magnetic-bead depletion of B, T and natural killer (NK) cells and monocytes, followed by fluorescence activated cell sorting.

25 (canceled)

26 (previously presented): The method of claim 15, wherein the lymphoid tissue or blood sample is a peripheral blood sample.

27 (previously presented): The method of claim 15, wherein the pDC2 cell number is determined by counting CD4⁺ CD3⁻ CD11c⁻ cells.

28 (previously presented): The method of claim 27, wherein the pDC2 cells are isolated before counting.

29 (previously presented): The method of claim 28, wherein the pDC2 cells are isolated by magnetic-bead depletion of B, T and natural killer (NK) cells and monocytes, followed by fluorescence activated cell sorting.

30 (currently amended): A method of monitoring the progression of HIV infection or AIDS in a patient, the method comprising:

(a) measuring the number of pDC2 cells in a lymphoid tissue or blood sample obtained from the patient, wherein the pDC2 cells are CD4⁺, CD3⁻ and CD11c⁻; and

(b) comparing the number of pDC2 cells in said sample with the number of pDC2 cells in an appropriate control sample, where the control sample is from a subject or subjects having HIV infection or AIDS that is progressing,

wherein a number of pDC2 cells in the patient sample above the number of pDC2 cells in the control sample indicates that HIV infection or AIDS ~~is~~may not be progressing.

31 (canceled)

32 (previously presented): The method of claim 30, wherein the lymphoid tissue or blood sample is a peripheral blood sample.

33 (previously presented): The method of claim 30, wherein the pDC2 cell number is determined by counting CD4⁺ CD3⁻ CD11c⁻ cells.

34 (previously presented): The method of claim 33, wherein the pDC2 cells are isolated before counting.

35 (previously presented): The method of claim 34, wherein the pDC2 cells are isolated by magnetic-bead depletion of B, T and natural killer (NK) cells and monocytes, followed by fluorescence activated cell sorting.

36 (new): A method for testing a patient having HIV or AIDS, the method comprising

(a) obtaining a lymphoid tissue or blood sample from the patient; and

(b) measuring the number of pDC2 cells in the sample, wherein the pDC2 cells are CD4⁺, CD3⁻ and CD11c⁻.